

On the Trail

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF EL DORADO NATURE CENTER FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS

Small Acts of Kindness

Several years ago, Billie Sheaffer donated nearly one-hundred copies of her book "A Manual for the Care of Wild Birds" to El Dorado Audubon, our local chapter of the Audubon Society. Thumbing through a copy, I noticed a hand-written quote at the top of the title page. It read, *No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted* (Aesop). Intrigued, I browsed through several others and found the same thing. It turns out, Billie had inscribed these meaningful words on every single book.

Billie passed away in January, leaving behind a legacy of advocacy and compassion. After 50 plus years of rehabilitating wild birds, Billie was rightfully crowned "The Bird Lady of Long Beach." She lived by Aesop's words, demonstrating many acts of kindness throughout her amazing life.



photo by Cheryl Patterson

We will miss Billie a great deal here at the Nature Center. As my co-worker, Maureen, put it so well, Billie was our relief. We were the middle men, the transporters, and the information givers...she did all of the work. She was always available to take any kind of injured, orphaned or sick bird. It was so neat to deliver a bird to her house and see all of the busy feeders and bird baths in the front yard. Then to walk into an immaculately clean and organized bird care room, filled with cages and kennels of various sizes and the inevitable "cheeping" sounds of little songbirds. No matter how hard I tried, she would never, ever, take donations. In fact, she would often turn around and delight us with treats! A whole sheet cake one Christmas!

Great Egret being released at N. Lake

Although we undoubtedly feel Billie's absence, it reminds us of how lucky we are to have an incredible network of local rehabilitators that offer care to all kinds of animals. However, they can't do it alone. We are all responsible for protecting wildlife. First, we can make sure to keep their habitat clean and safe. Secondly, know what to do if you find injured, orphaned or sick wildlife. Animal Care Services is always a good resource. They will rescue wildlife and transport them to the appropriate care facility. However, they are extremely busy,

so sometimes you can help out by contacting a rehabilitator directly. If you see a tortoise wandering around your neighborhood, its probably time to call the Tortoise Care Club. Mallard entangled with fishing line? - give International Bird Rescue a ring. Orphaned opossum in your garden? - get a hold of the Opossum Society. Many of these rescue groups are swamped, but they can give you sound, safe advice on what to do next. Sometimes, the advice will be to do nothing,

as in the case of healthy, fledging birds. The Nature Center has a list of helpful organizations available.

Lastly, you can take action. Training courses and educational seminars are available if you would like to enhance your wildlife rescue skills. Volunteers and donations are always needed at rehab facilities. Making a simple phone call is invaluable. Sure, it's just one finch, one lizard, one squirrel, you can't "save the world", right? However, by doing something, even *one small act of kindness* for that one animal, you have made a world of difference.

-Erin Kellogg

Earth Day Coastal Cleanup

Join us! • Saturday April 18 • 10:00am - 12noon

at the **BELMONT PIER** or call (562) 570-1745 for information about other cleanup sites.

Notes from a Naturalist

Finding Your Way

Do you know that cool eerie-looking tree on the one mile trail? -the one that reaches out in every direction including overhead and visually swallows you in. That dead Chinese elm has been used many times by guest as a landmark. There are many natural objects and manmade structures in the Nature Center. You use them when you visit as a point of reference to your location.

For example, have you ever reached the trail junction sign and thought, "There's not much further to go?" That would be a true thought depending on which path you decide to start from. In this instance, you had to have started your hike up the switchback and descended into a small patch of cactus that point you towards a tiny bridge just past the tall eucalyptus tree standing guard. You continue onto a sharp bend in the trail that shoots through a cozy path of serrated leaves to an open grassland view. The stream ahead leads you past a decorative sycamore grove and over a second bridge. A small eucalyptus grove and



fragrant sage scrub plants follow, and you look up to some parabolic power lines. You pass the eerie looking elm and enter a shady oak woodland littered with decaying leaves and acorns. Trekking past the squirrels and fallen acorns, there is a curved seating area and water fountain. Then finally, you cross a third bridge that rests close to a cobble beach and arrive at the trail junction sign.

But, if you started your hike crossing the waterfall bridge you would still have a long way to go.

To get to the small but noticeable landmark EXIT sign, you continue past the trail junction through what I like to call the "enchanted forest." There are always squirrels and cottontail rabbits scurrying around and birds tweeting in the

background. Next time you are hiking through there, have a seat on the brown bench and listen closely. Let the Nature Center enchant you a bit.

- Ismael Lopez

Flock Together!

Join El Dorado Nature Center and El Dorado Audubon for our annual

International Migratory Bird Day Festival

Enjoy interesting bird walks, informative booths and family-friendly activities and crafts.

Saturday, May 9, 2015

Call (562) 570-1745 for more information.



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El Dorado Nature Center

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Nature Center: 562.570.1745

Friends of El Dorado Nature Center: 562.570.1745

Regional Park Info: 562.570.1773

Regional Park Reservations: 562.570.3111

Find us on the web at www.longbeach.gov/naturecenter

Entry Plaza Construction Update

As we move forward with the designs for our front entryway and bridge, we are starting to plan for the actual construction. Once construction begins, we anticipate a large portion of the parking lot and the entire entry to the Nature Center will be closed for 6 months. The museum and trail system will still be accessible via a side entrance off of the 1/4 mile trail, and alternate parking along the north road parallel to Spring Street will supplement loss of spots in the front.

Unfortunately, due to the construction we may have to alter some of our summer and fall programming. Below is a list of the programs that will be on hiatus:

- Summer Concert Series
- Howl-oween Festival
- Friends and Family Movie Night

Our Nature Kids Camp will still be held in the classroom and trails this summer. We look forward to the changes and hope you will pardon our dust as we move forward with this exciting project. We will post updates on the timeline as it is finalized – please check our website for the most current information.

Preschool

“The children and nature movement is fueled by this fundamental idea: the child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable.”

- Richard Louv, from the new edition of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*

If you wander through the shelves of your favorite bookstore, the number of books that have been written to encourage parents and children to play and learn in the great outdoors might surprise you. Many of us assume that it is innate for children to run, play and explore in nature, but it is apparent that is not for many of today's children.

In an effort to curb this problem for the preschool-aged children of the Los Angeles and Orange County Areas, El Dorado Nature Center has been offering programming for the last 8 years. Our Preschool in Nature program has had unprecedented success this year of selling out as well as having an extensive waiting list. In this one and half hour program, children get to explore the trails for half of class. During these explorations, the children get time to play, use math and language skills and scientific investigation. The time spent in the classroom is used to do further critical thinking as well as art inspired by their surroundings. We will be hosting our first Art Show and Silent Auction for the collaborative artwork our scholars have created on May 2nd, hosting a gallery opening from 10am to noon. Please join us to view the works of our budding artists/naturalists. Jewelry, paintings, and home décor pieces will be available for sale and auction. All proceeds will be used to further the Preschool in Nature program. Fall Registration for Fall program will begin first of August.

Bookstore Upgrades

We are finally going high-tech! Starting this April our bookstore and program registration will be transferring over to a web-based program called Activenet. While visitors can still register on-site, we are encouraging them to create their on-line accounts at www.lbparks.org.

In order to continue to give excellent customer service, we have created another counter located on the east porch. Visitors can

- Purchase annual parking passes
- Register for classes
- Get general information

from this service window. One of the benefits of the new computer system is buying annual parking passes. Once an account has been created visitors will no longer have to fill out the tedious paperwork.



International Day of Puppetry

The Orange County Puppetry Guild
is pleased to present

FREE PUPPET WORKSHOPS AND SHOWS

for kids of all ages at the El Dorado Nature Center on

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST
FROM 1:30 TO 3:30 P.M.**

Please join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter!

March 21st is the National Day of Puppetry with events taking place throughout our wonderful nation.

We look forward to seeing you on that day!



Thank You!

Thanks so much for the support of our current Friends Members!

Don't see your name? Stop by or give us a call and we can help you renew your membership.

Maureen Adler	Meridel Daniels	Robert Lamond	Susan Roberge
Susan Alperin	Gehl Davis	Spencer Langdon	Lynda & Randal Roberts
Pamela Anderson	Susan Dewey	Tyler Lappen	Chuck Rulon
Adan & Robyn Archer Herrera	Wayne Dodds	Diana Lejins	Dorothy Rypka
Susie Archer	Barbara & Bruce Falk	Sue Lemmerman	Pamela Salyer
Corrine Ash	Tracy Felton	Isobel Leventhal	Natalino & Carmelina Scalas
Linda Baltad	Martin Fiebert	Susanna & Paul Levitt	Walt & Judy Schenkel
Pam Bartleson	June Fukuhara	Steven Liivoja	Lou & Norma Schumow
Vince & Kay Beck	Donna & Marc Furon	Susan Lindberg	Shelley Scott
Mike Beckage	Pinky & Roger Gagnon	Mia Lipski	Mike & Barbara Sentovich
Robert Bellinger	Dorothy Geisler	Lynne Lockwald	April Serlin
Karen Berg	Kathy Gibson	Patrick Lucey	Sree Shakkottai
Susan Bloomstine	Marcia Goodman	Mario Mariotta	Jen-Mei Shih
Becky Bosdet	William Gould	Sheila Martin	Ron & Tere Sievers
Lu & John Bowden	Judy Green	Jonel Matthews	Dee Anne Smith
Gail Boyd	Malcolm Groff	Maria McCloud	Nancy Smith
Margaret Brandt	Nancy Hagthorp	Wendy McClure	Bridget Spanea
Donna Bray	Ellen Halloran	Betty Diane McCown	Mary Stebbins
Jill Brennan	Patrick & Shana Halloran	Willellyn McFarland	Judith Stevens
Deidre Brooker	Paul & Kathy Hanson	Curt Metz	Pat Testerman
Peggy Brutsche	Mary Hebert	Joe Mos	Karen Thompson
Linda Bryan-Thompson	Faith Herschler	Jay Myl	Frances Tomich
Bryan-Zwick Family	Lynne Horn	Ann & William Naftel	Rodney Tsukashima
Genelle Buchert	Shona Howe	Roy Nesvold	Steve & Cindy Van Nattan
Doug Bucklew	Beverly & Jim Hutchison	Patricia Nowak	Bernice Van Steenbergen
Elaine Burdell	Josi Jenneskens	Bob & Sharon O'Connor	Rick Vieville
Andrew Burnk	Bernard & Donna Jorge	Oksana Orel	Tina Vince
Ann Cantrell	Leila Justen	Paolilli Family	Harriet Warner
Tom & Linda Capel	Cynthia Kameya	George & Lynn Pardon	David Wilborn
Faith Cardoza	Han-Pin Kan	Russ & Kathy Parsons	Steve & Pat Witt
Joyce Carrico	Lisa Karpf	Lien Pham	Ingeborg Witthuhn
Betty Christensen	Margo Kasdari	Jeffrey Rabin	Judy Wolfe
Alan Coles	Emily Kauppi	Jim & Nancy Raynesford	Fran Woods
Valerie Colucci	Willa Kay	Suzan Reece	Leah Young
Charles Courdy	Irene Kingsbury	Patricia Reed	
Susan Csikesz	Janae & Jerry Knight	Mildred Reynolds	

Time for a Little Spring Cleaning

Spring in Southern California is the perfect time of year to be outside. Days are filled with mild temperatures and sunny, blue skies. Let the weather be your motivator. Encouraging environmental stewardship throughout the Long Beach community is part of the ongoing mission of El Dorado Nature Center. In our continued effort to raise awareness about the health of natural habitats, we offer a variety of volunteer opportunities.

Here are some ways you can help out and get your hands a little dirty at the same time... with gloves of course.

Wetland Warrior Cleanup

Held each month on the third Saturday from 10 AM-noon at Golden Shore Marine Biological Reserve. This site is located at the mouth of the Los Angeles River and provides essential salt marsh habitat for local wildlife. It is continually inundated with trash, as well. We need more warriors to fight the ongoing battle against marine pollution. Join us!

Earth Day Coastal Cleanup

Rally your friends and family to help us kick off Earth Day weekend in Long Beach. Our Earth Day Coastal Cleanup event on Saturday, April 18th from 10-noon marks the culmination of National Volunteer Week. With help from our local partners, the Aquarium of the Pacific, Clean LB, and Surfrider, we are expanding our annual event to include three new sites for 2015. From the Peninsula to near downtown, we will cover our coastline with volunteers.

Hang up your winter coat, grab your sunglasses and sunscreen, and meet us by the coast for a little outdoor spring-cleaning.



Welcome New Volunteers and a New Opportunity

You might have noticed a few trees missing off the ¼ Mile Trail. For the past 10 years, Southern California Edison has had to come in and top trees located under the power lines to maintain a safe clearance. As our restoration efforts have moved forward, we have decided to work with Edison tree contractors to have all of the non-native trees removed. Not only will this

provide cleared areas for future habitat restoration, but protects the existing habitat from disruption from the annual tree maintenance. Staff will be working with the Habitat Stewards Volunteers over the next few years to prepare and plant low growing coastal sage scrub and riparian habitat in the cleared areas.

Our Habitat Stewards Volunteer Program welcomes its newest volunteers who completed training in January: Christina Arviso, Chris Edwards, Judy Green, Kitty Guo, Robert Hardin, Donna Howard, Dennis Morris, Jennifer Neat, Brooke Nix, John Reidy, Jasen Rodriguez, Frank Sharkany, and Bibiana Zatarain. In the training these volunteers learned the basics of planting and pruning and visited the many plant communities as they toured the Nature Center.



Upcoming Events

Preschool Programs

Preschool In Nature : March 17-April 16 or April 28-May 21

Bubble Fizz Boom! : April 13-May 4 • Tales and Trails : May 8-May 29

Parent and Me Workshops

Little Leprechauns: March 11 • Bunny Hop : March 25 • Nature Detectives : April 15

Flower Frolic : April 29 • Butterfly Ball : May 13 • Dinosaur Dig : May 27

Special Events

Earth Day Coastal Cleanup : April 18 • Turtle Show : May 2

Nature Programs

Family Night Walks : March 10, April 14, May 12 • Drawing in Nature : March 14, April 11, May 9

Audubon Meeting : March 8, April 12, May 21 • Audubon Bird Walk : March 8, April 12, May 10

“Out of the Wilds and Into Your Garden” Lecture Series : March 7, April 4, May 2

Volunteer Opportunities

Wetland Warrior Cleanup : March 21, May 16 • Service Learning : March 7, April 4, May 2

What's new at **El Dorado Nature Center**? Sign up for **e-notify** at www.LBParks.org and find out!
Visit Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine on **Facebook** and become a Fan!



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